

Achievements

- Significant progress has been made against the recommendations made in the Ofsted Review (March 2017)
- An increased range of multi-agency audits with improved practice noted across the county
- KSCB's Programme Development Officer being awarded the NSPCC Child Protection Trainer of the Year
- Published 3 Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) and delivered related action plans
- Delivery of 2 County SCR workshops

Themes from SCRs include:

- Parental alcohol and drugs use
- Greater awareness of and engagement with fathers / new / other adults in the family
- Staff participation in multi-agency meetings and the sharing of meeting papers
- Escalation of concerns where there are differing views as to the risks identified
- The need for ongoing reflective supervision of staff
- Hostile and resistant families, including disguised compliance and the need for professional curiosity
- Recognition and response to injuries to young immobile babies

These feature in the Board's priorities, for both learning and obtaining re-assurance from partners on how practice has improved.

Performance and Data

- Approximately 9800 families (around 20,500 CYP) were worked with in Early Help Units.
- Cases stepped up from Early Help to Specialist Children's Services (SCS) has decreased from 8.3% in Mar 17 to 6.4% in Mar 18.
- The number of children with children in need plans during 2017/18 was 2393, an increase of 86 on the previous year.
- The number of children with child protection plans has increased by 306 to 1,491.
- 99.9% of child protection plans that year had been reviewed within timescale.
- The number of children who became subject of child protection plans throughout 2017/18 had been the subject of a plan previously has increased by 68.
- The number of Children in Care has reduced by 238 to 1,655.
- At year end, there were 1288 Children in Care placed in Kent by other Local Authorities

KSCB Training:

- Delivered 106 multi-agency training sessions with over 2,300 attendees
- Over 11,00 E-Learning courses completed E-learning
- KSCB's Programme Development Office being awarded BASPCAN/NSPCC's inaugural 'Child Protection Trainer of the Year'

View from KSCB Members

- A strong strategic board promoting and embedding safeguarding priorities and legislation across the County
- Focused and structured with a good commitment from partners
- Functioning well and supportive of partners as well as right level of challenge.
- A well-managed, led and supported organisation which has been increasingly effective in safeguarding the children and young people in Kent
- There is a common purpose evident with good listening and broad contribution
- The relationships between the independent chair, manager and business group are strong and effective.
- Committed to constructive challenge and open discussion
- There needs to be improved learning as the themes from Reviews and Audits are recurrent
- There is a common purpose evident with good listening and broad contribution
- With the move to the new Safeguarding Arrangements, it gives us the chance to review clarity of purpose, structure and opportunities for streamlining. It will be an opportunity to review what works well, and what could work better.
- Greater public engagement in local safeguarding issues.